

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-07 SP-02 L-02

PM-03 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

IO-03 DRC-01 /058 W

----- 117948

O 121154Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5888

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6048

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: DETERIORATION OF ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) SEOUL 6047; (B) SEOUL 6003

1. CHARGE SAW VICE FONMIN LHO SHIN-YONG AT LATTER'S REQUEST EVENING SEPT 12. LHO SAID FONMIN WOULD ORDINARILY HAVE SAID WHAT FOLLOWED TO CHARGE, BUT HAD TO GO HOME SUFFERING FROM EXHAUSTION BROUGHT ON BY TENSIONS OF PAST WEEK.

2. LHO SAID PURPOSE OF CALLING IN CHARGE WAS FORMALLY TO REQUEST, ON BEHALF OF FONMIN, THAT USG APPROACH JAPANESE WITH VIEW TO PERSUADING JAPAN TO AMEND LANGUAGE OF ITS PROPOSED LETTER TO MEET ROK NEEDS. MEETING CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT HAD LASTED TWO HOURS. DESPITE HARDLINE PRESSURE FOR BREAK, PRESIDENT HAD BEEN PERSUADED BY MODERATES TO DELAY TAKING ACTION ON GROUNDS ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES FOR MOVING JAPANESE TOWARD ROK POSITION MUST BE EXPLORED. IN PARTICULAR MODERATES USED ARGUMENT THAT USG OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER SITUATION AND SHOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO EXERT ITS INFLUENCE ON JAPANESE. THEY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT  
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SINCE ALL ROKG PREPARATIONS IN HAND AND IT ALREADY LATE

IN EVENING, THERE NO NEED TO ANNOUNCE ACTION UNTIL  
SEPT 13. DECISION HAD THEREFORE BEEN MADE TO WAIT OVER-  
NIGHT TO DETERMINE IF USG COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE, AND FORMALLY  
TO REQUEST SUCH ASSISTANCE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO LANGUAGE OF LETTER, LHO CONFIRMED  
THAT PROBLEMS LAY IN THREE AREAS OUTLINED REFTTEL (A).  
HE SAID HE NOT PREPARED SUGGEST SPECIFIC CHANGES, BUT  
ROKG FEELS LANGUAGE SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO CONFORM MORE  
CLOSELY ON THESE POINTS WITH LANGUAGE CONTAINED ROK  
DRAFT OF SEPT 11 (REF B).

4. CHARGE REMINDED LHO THAT IN ALL ITS COMMUNICATIONS  
ON THIS SUBJECT AND IN ALL THAT HE SAID TO ROKG, POSITION  
OF USG HAD BEEN THAT IT REGARDS THIS DISPUTE AS BILATERAL  
PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE SETTLED BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES  
INVOLVED. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD FORWARD REQUEST, BUT  
WARNED THERE EVERY POSSIBILITY THAT USG WOULD NOT FIND  
IT POSSIBLE TO DO MORE THAN IT HAD BEEN DOING. CHARGE  
ADDED THAT ROKG REQUEST PUTS USG IN DIFFICULTIAOSITION  
AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IF USG RESPONSE TO LHO'S REQUEST  
WERE NEGATIVE, ROKG COULD UNDERSTAND WHY.

5. LHO SAID THAT ROKG APPRECIATED DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED  
FOR US IN RESPONDING TO HIS REQUEST. IF ANSWER WERE  
NEGATIVE, AND IF THERE WERE NO SIGNAL FROM THE JAPANESE  
DURING COURSE OF FOLLOWING DAY (AND KOREANS HAVE RECEIVED  
NO WORD FROM JAPANESE SINCE EARLY MORNING FONMIN/USHIROKU  
MEETING), THEN ROKG WOULD RECALL ITS AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO  
AND PROVIDE GOJ WITH ULTIMATUM ROKG HAD EARLIER DESCRIBED.  
CHARGE ASKED WHETHER ROKG STILL PLANNING TO PUBLISH  
ULTIMATUM AND LHO RESPONDED ROKG WOULD TELL GOJ THAT IT  
WOULD NOT PUBLISH ULTIMATUM UNLESS GOJ DID.

6. COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPLY  
BY OPENING BUSINESS SEPT 13. THIS CONVERSATION AND  
EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH PRIMIN INDICATES SOME FLEXIBILITY  
BOTH IN TERMS OF DEADLINE FOR ROK ACTION AND WITH RESPECT  
TO LANGUAGE OF JAPANESE LETTER. HOWEVER, DIALOGUE WITH  
JAPANESE IS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY STALLED AND ROKG OBVIOUSLY  
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RELYING ON USG TO ASSIST IN REOPENING IT.  
ERICSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 SEP 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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